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THE VALE OF GLENCO.

# SKETCHES OF THE HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS OF SCOTLAND.

## PART THE THIRD.

### MULL.—EMIGRATION.

ON our return to MULL, we found the harbour of Tobermory in considerable bustle. It is the port of embarkation for the emigrants from the western Highlands and islands. Four vessels, laden with them, now lay here; one bound for Quebec, and the other for Nova Scotia. One contained 200 persons, from the Long Island, emigrating in consequence of a difference with their landlord. They had received no assistance in the prosecution of their undertaking, from any quarter; were in high spirits, and much encouraged by the accounts which they had received from their friends who had preceded them. Near Tobermory we met a man from Ballochroy, in Mull, proceeding to embark with his wife and three children. By the sale of their house, two cows, a horse, and the rest of their little property, they had realized a capital of £40; and, as the whole expense of their voyage to Cape Breton, amounted to £0. for the passage, and £4. 10s. for provisions, they calculated on a surplus sufficient to enable them to locate themselves prosperously on their arrival. The former absurd or useless regulations, which rendered the conveyance of emigrants expensive and almost impracticable, have been abolished. Among other provisions, it was required that each individual should be supplied with a large allowance of meat during the voyage, calculated on military rations; a diet almost unknown to most of the natives of these regions: and pork was particularly specified, though as much abhorred by Highlanders as by Jews. There is no doubt but that the prevailing prejudice against emigration, conspired, with motives of humanity, to induce the Society, from which these regulations emanated, to suggest them to government.

The obstacles to Emigration have been now, in a great measure, removed: the emigrants are healthy on their voyage; generally carry out sufficient capital to enable them to settle: are located, on their arrival, whether in Canada or in the United States, usually among their own kindred or former neighbours, who have paved the way for them there: or enjoy the benefit of arrangements framed for their accommodation by government or by societies. In general they succeed well; but it is remarked that their habitual indolence, though yielding to the temporary pressure of necessity, too frequently returns, when that stimulant no longer operates. Our American colonies afford a bright prospect to the industrious settler. The advantages of emigration must, however, be considered not only in reference to the individuals, but in a national point of view.

Emigration has been, during a considerable period, a resource of the population of Scotland, as of all poor countries. In former times, among the Scotch, it was confined almost entirely to military service; and they supplied troops to several foreign states, and contributed to some of the most important victories which have influenced the fate of Europe. Many of the noble families of Sweden have descended from, and bear the name of, their Scottish ancestors, who fought under Gustavus Adolphus. War constituted almost the sole employment, and offered the sole inducements, to the Highland clansmen: for them the speculations of more peaceful adventure possessed no charm. Lord Selkirk mentions that a temporary emigration, from Inverness-shire to Georgia, in 1722, was produced by tempting prospects of advantage; but that forty years elapsed before it was followed by another.

The time to which emigration, for the purpose of settling, must be referred, is that of the breaking up of the ancient Highland system, during the early and middle period of the last century. The *chiefs*, whose power depended on the number of their clansmen and retainers, and who were indemnified for the expense of maintaining them, partly by low rents and partly by military service, found themselves transformed, by the operation of law, into mere *landlords*; and compelled to adopt a new mode of living, and more productive management of their estates. The transition, retarded by the force of ancient habits, by the ties of relationship and of clan-ship, by humanity, as well as by indolence, pride, and prejudice, occupied a considerable period; involving the enlargement of farms, the introduc-

tion of sheep, and the diminution of farm-servants, useless retainers, and unprofitable stock: and unavoidably caused the ejection of a large body of people from their former modes of employment and of living. For these it became necessary to provide. Emigration immediately presented itself as an obvious resource; and, from the period in question, has been adopted at intervals, in almost all parts of the Highlands and islands, till almost every district has created a corresponding colony on the other side of the Atlantic.

Its effect, in retarding the progressive increase of the population, has been, however, little perceptible. Lord Selkirk observes, in 1805, in his letter on emigration, that the population had materially increased, both in the Long Island, which had contributed the largest portion in proportion to its people, and in Sky, from whence about 4000 persons had proceeded to America, and about double the number to the Low Countries, between 1772 and 1791; and Sky has continued since to be overburdened with people! The commencement of this very emigration was witnessed by Dr. Johnson, and suggested the following remarks, indicating his ignorance of a principle which Mr. Malthus has since enrolled among the fundamental truths of political science.

"Some method to stop this epidemic desire of wandering, which spreads its contagion from valley to valley, deserves to be sought with great diligence. In more fruitful countries, the removal of one only makes room for the succession of another: *but in the Hebrides, the loss of an inhabitant leaves a lasting vacancy*; for nobody born in any other part of the world, will choose this country for his residence; and an island once depopulated will remain a desert, as long as the present facility of travel gives every one who is discontented and unsettled, the choice of his abode."

The influence of the change of system on population, may be further illustrated by the following quotation from Lord Selkirk's work.

"There is no part of the Highlands where the change in the system of management has advanced so far towards maturity as in Argyleshire. In Dr. John Smith's Survey of that Country, drawn up for the Board of Agriculture, we find this remark: 'The state of population in this county, as it stood in 1755, and as it stands at present, may be seen in the statistical table. Although many parishes have greatly decreased in their number of inhabitants, owing to the prevalence of the sheep-system, yet upon the whole the number is greater now than it was forty years ago. This is owing to the greater population of the town of Cambleton, and village of Oban, which have more than doubled their joint numbers in that period; so that, if these are left out of the reckoning, the population in the county will be found to have decreased considerably.'

"The fact is curious and valuable: the population of Argyleshire has not diminished on the whole, yet the value of produce which is now sent away to feed the inhabitants of a distant part of the kingdom, is much greater than formerly."

The unquestionable result of the substitution of order, economy, and judicious and well-regulated employment of the resources of the Highlands, for the vicious system which it superseded, and the consequent augmentation of wealth, comfort, civilization, and moral improvement, has been, notwithstanding the partial diminution of the population in some few districts, the material increase of its total amount, which may be proved by reference to the statistical tables. Whether emigration to foreign parts has been necessary, is a question involving several considerations. Johnson observed to Boswell, upon hearing read a letter written by Sir Hector Maclean, from Georgia, where he was employed in settling a colony, to the Laird of Coll, dissuading him from letting his people go there, on the assurance that there would soon be an opportunity of employing them better at home; that "the lairds, instead of improving their country, diminished their people." Subsequent experience has most fully proved the truth of this observation. The progressive development of the resources of the country has since afforded employment



and subsistence to a population, compared with which the emigrants form but an infinitely small fraction.

Lord Selkirk himself, an active and intrepid personal promoter of emigration, but recommending it with no empirical partiality, deemed it subordinate to the primary object of improving the agriculture and the fisheries; yet he did not apparently foresee the very ample extension of the latter, which has since contributed so much to the wealth of the Northern Highlands, and of Scotland in general. The complaints of excessive population in Scotland, during the last century, were really as inapplicable as to England, in the reign of Henry VII., when a similar change of system occurred; or to Ireland, when that fertile country was thinly peopled and wretchedly cultivated. Emigration was, indeed, materially checked by the demands for labour and capital, produced by the increasing attention to domestic improvement.

The late Duke of Sutherland employed the whole of the population which he ejected from their glens, profitably and happily on his coast, which previously supplied only a few cottagers with subsistence. Several other proprietors have acted similarly. Emigration was also directed to the Lowlands of Scotland by the growth of manufactures, of towns, and improving agriculture, though the Highlanders could be brought little to the actual employment of the loom; and, during the war, it was stopped by the demands of the military service. Yet, as the development of the means of employment could not invariably coincide with the progress of the change of system, and the situation of estates sometimes precluded the transfer of the tenants from one part of them to another, emigration proved eminently advantageous in preventing an accumulation of poverty, misery, and crime, and the general prevalence of those disorders which occurred in particular districts, and which, had the transition been effected simultaneously in all parts of the country, instead of diffusing itself gradually during two thirds of a century, might have involved the kingdom in another rebellion.

The circumstances of these regions have been now materially altered. The Irish, working for lower wages, have supplanted the natives in the Lowlands; peace has almost put an end to military recruiting; and the consequent redundancy of population has been materially augmented by the recent failure of one branch of employment already adverted to, the manufacture of *Kelp*. The peculiar emergency to which the people are reduced, appears to justify that loud cry for emigration in which landlords and tenants join, blending with the general voice of the nation in its favour. All disinclination to it has ceased. The agent for an estate on the coast, near Sky, assured me that, in a single parish, there were 500 persons anxious to proceed to America; and poverty alone restrains multitudes from embarking. The assistance of government is desired, and the occasion deemed appropriate. But the assumption of permanent distress as the result of this temporary failure of a valuable resource, the only, and still inadmissible ground on which national aid can be solicited, may be fairly questioned.

The precarious, but often ample, profits of the kelp, have counteracted the progress both of agriculture and the fisheries. The maritime farms which yield the kelp in Orkney, and in other parts of Scotland, have been notoriously usually the worst cultivated; and the fisheries, which demand the almost exclusive attention of those employed in them, and which invariably decline, when occupation and subsistence can be procured on shore, have also suffered from the kelp; and the idle lounging habits produced by the mode of employment which it affords, have been prejudicial to industry.

Let the proprietors of the maritime farms bend their attention to the soil and to the sea, profiting by the numerous examples of successful speculation and exertion before their eyes, and they will perhaps discover that temporary distress has been, in this instance, in conformity to the ordinary dispensation of Providence, in eliciting good from evil, productive of substantial benefit both to themselves and to their tenants.

That emigration to America may still continue to be advantageous to Scotland, if pursued with moderation, and without extraneous encouragement, cannot be questioned. Though, on the introduction of sheep, many landlords provided permanently for their ejected tenants, others adopted the temporary expedient of placing them on small allotments, upon which they have multiplied and become burdensome. The usual result of negligence and of mistaken humanity, on the part of the landlord or his agent,

is an accumulation of paupers. The removal of the superfluous population becomes, sooner or later, necessary, however distressing to the feelings of the proprietor, and oppressive to the people: and emigration may be often resorted to under such circumstances as a happy resource, where the landlord is ready to contribute his assistance to the purpose.

Of the beneficial result of such an arrangement, a recent emigration from the Isle of Rum, effected by the joint efforts of landlord and tenants, affords a striking instance. I am indebted for the account of it, to a gentleman who was personally engaged in it. The people of this island were an indolent race of gentlemen; some of whom had held commissions in the Fencible Regiments; fishing for their amusement, living on good mutton, lying in bed in rainy, and on the grass in fine weather, and paying little or no rent. At the time of their emigration, they owed Coll, their landlord, upwards of 2000*l.*, which he could have recovered by the sale of their stock, which amounted to double that sum. But he not only declined this mode of indemnifying himself, but contributed 600*l.* towards the emigration of the poorer class. The island has since yielded a rental of 800*l.*

Emigration should be, however, regarded as affecting not merely the interest of landlord and tenant, or of the nation of which they form a part, but that of the new world to the peopling of which it contributes. And may it not be hoped, that the continual supply of families nurtured under the fostering influence of our Constitution in Church and State\*, professing generally the Protestant faith in its purity, enjoying the benefits of education denied to their forefathers, may tend to the diffusion of order, social happiness, and Christian knowledge, through empires yet unborn? And is the expectation romantic and visionary, or rather, is it not warranted by the enthusiasm which the prospect of the land of his ancestors awakens in the breast of the enlightened American, that the descendants of the Scottish emigrants, retaining their ancient language, literature, songs, and religion, and animated by

The stirring memory of a thousand years,  
may perpetuate that characteristic hereditary attachment to the land of their fathers, their heroes, and their martyrs, so exquisitely expressed by the poet.

O Caledonia! stern and wild,  
Meet nurse for a poetic child!  
Land of brown heath and shaggy wood,  
Land of the mountain and the flood,  
Land of my sires! what mortal hand  
Can e'er untie the filial band  
That knits me to thy rugged strand!

Each emigrating family may thus become a link in the mighty chain, which may hereafter bind the old world to the new, in the bonds of mutual good-will and common philanthropy.

The following extract from STEWART'S *Sketches*, affords a gratifying instance of the perpetuity of Highland attachment, exhibited by some emigrants from the estate of one of his kinsmen, corroborative of these observations.

"It is now upwards of thirty years since the first detachment emigrated; but so far are they from entertaining a spirit of hostility to this country, that they cherish the kindest feelings towards their ancient homes, and the families of their ancient lairds; their new possessions are named after their former farms, and their children and grand-children are named after the sons and daughters of their lairds; and so loyal were they to the king and government of this country, that to avoid serving against them in the late war, several emigrated from the States to Canada, when the young men entered the Royal Militia and Fencibles. Such are the consequences of considerate treatment, and of voluntary emigration."

LOCH SUNART; STRONTIAN; CONNALL FERRY;  
BALLYHULISH; GLENCO; DEVIL'S  
STAIR-CASE; LOCH LEVEN.

LEAVING Mull we ascended Loch Sunart to Strontian. Our rowers, two boys, who supported their parents by their industry, belonged to a family exhibiting the peculiarity of appearance which distinguished the Swiss Albineness who some years ago visited this country,—white hair and red ferret eyes.

LOCH SUNART, a narrow arm of the sea, extending twenty

\* Esto perpetua.

miles, affords the varied prospects of river-scenery, deriving much beauty from the frequent indentations of the coast, and the occasional profusion of wood, especially on the coast of Ardnamurchan, which it separates from Morvern. Mingary Castle, at its entrance, occupies a commanding position. The neat cottages near Strontian, built of substantial granite, and sometimes adorned with creepers, contrasted with the turf huts with which they are intermingled, indicate the neighbourhood of a resident proprietor. This improved taste in building is perceptible in the cottages of several of the landlords in Appin and its neighbourhood: it is not more expensive than the old rude style of construction, and whilst ornamental, animates the proprietor with the consciousness of that paternal care of his tenants, which proves its own reward, and the tenants with self-respect and a regard to cleanliness, incompatible with the filthy and slovenly habits almost inseparable from their old and often wretched dwellings. The turf cottage is by no means necessarily a hovel; its walls, the growth of the soil, are often proof against the roughest winds and heaviest rain: and its interior may be the abode of cleanliness and independence. But the difficulty of preserving it from dilapidation and dirt, is far greater than in the case of a building of more durable material, and requires attention and industry rarely found among the Scottish peasantry.

At STRONTIAN is the residence of Sir James Riddell, the proprietor of the wild and mountainous district of Ardnamurchan. Its population, scattered over the islands, or gathered in groups along the coasts, was formerly much neglected: but the joint efforts of the proprietor, and of the Gaelic School Society, have been beneficially felt; and two parliamentary churches will soon supply the deficiency of spiritual instruction. Some remains of former ecclesiastical structures may be traced on an island in a small lake embosomed in the mountains, still hallowed by the Catholics. The people of Ardnamurchan are distinguished by their attachment to their native soil: Sir James Riddell has endeavoured, like his neighbour of Coll, to counteract the practice of smuggling to which they are addicted, by banishment from their homes to less hospitable parts of his estate; but with little success: Smuggling, like drinking, being a propensity scarcely curable where there is an opportunity of indulging it. Of the estimate of the moral guilt of smuggling, found in these parts, a proof was afforded to me by the remark made by my guide from Fort William to Arisaig, whilst pointing out a glen near the road-side, notorious for the practice of the illicit distillation of spirits: "Oh, Sir," he exclaimed, in reply to an observation on its baneful tendency, "we do not reckon men bad in this country, who engage in this trade; we consider it only forcing the laws!" But lately the illegal distillers of the wild district, between Lochs Lomond and Long, marched through Dumbarton, preceded by a piper, carrying their kegs in triumph, and bidding defiance to the police. The pernicious distinction between offences against the law of God, and the law of the land, to which the housebreaker and highwayman might appeal in vindication of their crime, as justly as the smuggler, is unfortunately by no means confined to the Highlands of Scotland, but is current on our own coasts; and the rich who sanction the practice by their participation or connivance, are responsible in part, not only for the guilt incurred, but for the miserable sophistry by which so many are tempted to the commission of the crime.

The lead-mine of this district affords employment and support to a considerable population, and is celebrated for the production of the *carbonate of strontian* first discovered in it.

A parliamentary road proceeds between steep and lofty ridges to Loch Linnhe, and under the mountains of Ardgowar to the Connal Ferry. On setting foot on the opposite shore we enter a region remarkable for its striking, varied, and contrasted interest. Ash and other trees enrich the scenery between the Ferry and Ballyhulish, at which spot the channel of Loch Leven forms a rapid, so narrow and powerful, as to expel the salt from the upper part of the lake. The residence of Mr. Stewart is near to it; a gentleman descended from a younger branch of the Stewarts of Appin. The Stewarts were the original proprietors of a large part of Argyleshire, and displaced by the Campbells, a clan of Irish extraction, who were consequently long regarded as interlopers, and designated 'greedy,' in having gradually obtained possession of nearly the whole county. The branch of Appin was regarded as

the head of the Episcopalians in this part of Scotland; the body of Christians to which that family belonged, and which prevails as far as Fort William. The chapel in that place may be considered the outpost of episcopacy on this side of Scotland.

The house of Appin, the residence of this family, was purchased some years ago by a stranger: and the attachment of the people to its ancient proprietor could scarcely be restrained from open displeasure at the sale.

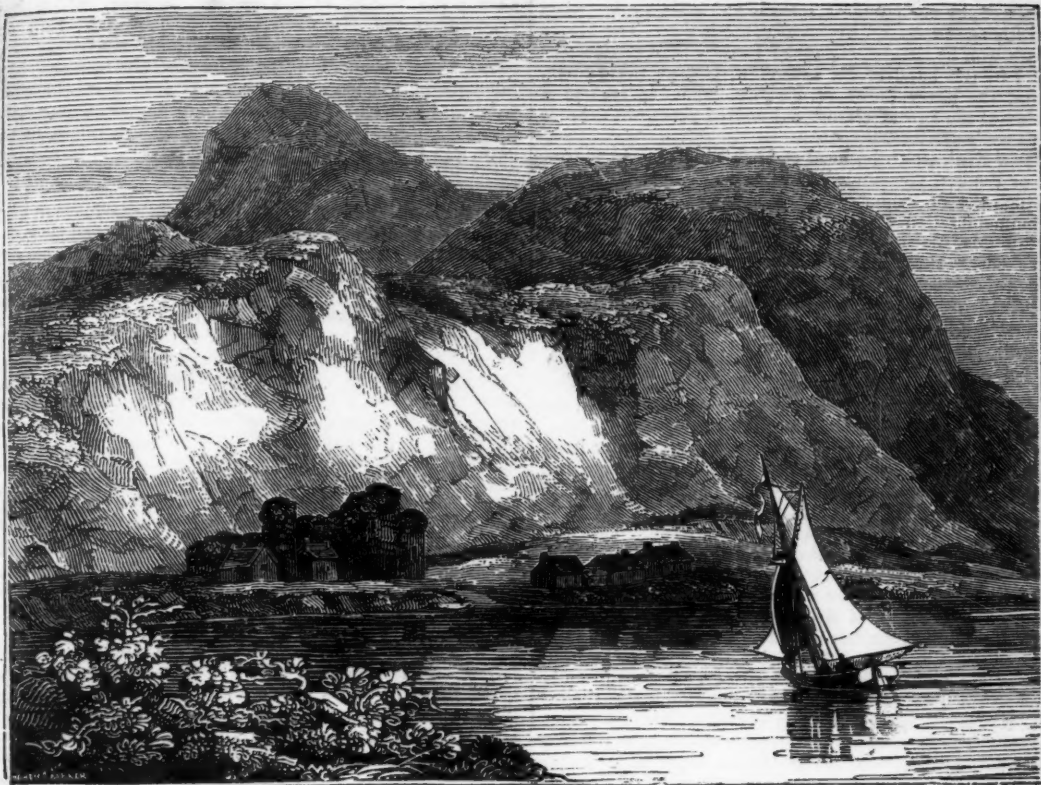
At BALLYHULISH the slate-quarries divert the attention awhile to the bustle and industry of a crowded population.

But the eye is more forcibly attracted, and the imagination engrossed, by the picturesque beauty and gloomy grandeur of the scenery which now opens on the view, and by the dismal tragedy which it recalls to remembrance. St. Mungo's Island, the cemetery of GLENCO, is the repository of the remains of the victims of the massacre. No memorials of them can be discovered: a ruined chapel contains some monuments, one of which offers an innocent exhibition of vanity, which may be justified by many a splendid precedent, and rescues effectually from oblivion an achievement which history has passed over in silence. It bears the representation, very well sculptured, of a dragoon struck from his charger by a Highlander armed with sword and target: above it is the name of Duncan Davidson, and beneath it the following inscription: "The fate of an English dragoon who attacked Duncan Davidson at the battle of Preston Panns, where he fought under Prince Charles Stuart."

The prospect embraces on one side the shores of Loch Leven, rock, knoll, and wood-land, extending in beautiful perspective to bare and lofty heights: and on the other a rich valley terminated by the sombre and majestic precipices of Glenco. The entrance to this celebrated pass through a long and stately avenue of forest-trees, corn-fields, rich meadows, copse and wood, contrasts strangely with the utter desolation of the barren and stony region which extends beyond to its further extremity, and which, inseparably associated in the mind of the traveller with the barbarous transaction of which it was the scene, suggests to the imagination "the curse of barrenness" as the penalty of the guilt incurred. Some huts occupy the site of the abodes of the unfortunate inhabitants of this valley, who were treacherously murdered by the soldiers who had partaken of their hospitality. The infamy of this atrocious deed, perpetrated in conformity to the principles of the ancient Highland system of retaliation and warfare, is divided between the immediate actors and the government of King William who sanctioned it. The remembrance of it would have rankled in the breast of the most feeble and apathetic people: but in the fiery and tenacious bosom of the Highlanders it wrought the settled and deadly purpose of revenge; and to the frequent and bloody harvests, reaped by King William's guiltless successors, the seed sown on that fatal day contributed its share. The pass ascends between dark, lofty, and precipitous ridges, of which the prominent and only picturesque feature is a single round rocky peak, towering nobly above the rest. It chanced at the moment of my passing to derive additional sublimity from the circumstance of a solitary ray piercing the clouds which brooded over its summit, and drawing forth at its base the vivid lustre of a plot of green grass into brilliant contrast with the noon-day twilight of the valley. A single farm-house relieves the unvaried barrenness of the upper part of the pass. The road, the military route through Tyndrum, winds its way to the highest point of the ascent, when the dismal moor of Rannock opens on the view: the King's House, a solitary inn, appearing like a caravansera in the desert.

The descent to LOCH LEVEN from the Moor, which is considerably elevated, significantly called the DEVIL'S STAIRCASE, is tedious and difficult, down the almost precipitous side of a deep ravine, through which the river Leven foams and tumbles, in its rapid progress from a hill-encircled basin to the lake, rolling smoothly during the latter part of its course over a rich and inhabited valley. Two men passed us as we approached the lake, one of whom bore on his shoulder a keg of spirits, whilst the other, who gently whispered, as he hurried by, that he would speedily join us, was pointed out to me by my guide as the boatman who had engaged to await us at the upper extremity of the lake. He had availed himself of the opportunity to convey a smuggler to the public-house in the valley, and so well was he entertained, that he remained carousing during an hour, when, as the evening was cold, and we were far-





VIEW OF INVERLOCHY CASTLE AND BEN NEVIS.

mented by the unrelenting persecution of the midges, the mosquitoes of the Scottish lakes, I pushed off, and taking one oar, and my guide the other, we completed a laborious day's journey with a pull to Ballyhulish; but it was fortunately one of those nights which Byron happily describes as "not made for slumber." A bright moon now illuminated the wild sequestered recesses of the lake; and, as we passed St. Mungo's Island, about midnight, its beams, reflected from the water, and from the tombstones of the cemetery, heightened by contrast the sombre grandeur of the peaks of Glenco, as they rose once more abruptly on the view, and deepened the gloom of the intermediate valley, whilst a solitary light on the opposite shore indicated the dwellings of the quarriers of Ballyhulish, now resting from their labour. A scene of more perfect stillness or magic splendour I scarcely recollect. Byron has supposed the mountains rejoicing over the birth of a young earthquake; it required a far less vigorous effort of the imagination to conceive them now delighting in the transient cessation of that "groaning and travelling of creation," which admits of little respite at this season of the year in these stormy regions. The rapid of Ballyhulish had well nigh hurried us past our landing-place. The smuggler arrived in due time, chafing with rage, which he found it convenient to suppress, having paid the penalty of his transgression by a rough walk of ten miles, along the pathless shore of the lake.

**FORT WILLIAM; GLEN FINNAN; PRETENDER;  
LOCH AYLORT; OAKS; BORRODALE;  
ARISAIG; FERRY.**

THE road to FORT WILLIAM offers little beauty. This small town was originally built by James the Sixth, with the intention of civilizing the Highlands, Campbelltown and Stornaway having been made boroughs with the same view. The fort was erected by Cromwell, and was then called the garrison of Inverlochy, being calculated for the reception of 20,000 men. It was rebuilt on a smaller scale by King William, from whom it derived its present name. "The fort," (says Dr. Macculloch,) "is not dismantled nor absolutely abandoned, as was intended; the Duke of Wellington, with his usual steadiness of character, and contempt of idle clamour, having opposed this design, as to all the Highland garrisons."

To Cromwell's soldiers the Highlanders are indebted for teaching them the use of kale, and some other benefits resulting from superior civilization. Fort William has derived advantage from its vicinity to the Caledonian Canal, and the greatly-increased intercourse with the Highlands. It contains now places of worship belonging to the Kirk, the Episcopalians, and the Roman Catholics. The neighbouring ancient castle of Inverlochy offers a striking foreground to the huge mass of Ben Nevis. Dr. Macculloch assigns its erection to the time of Edward.

The road from Fort William to Arisaig is excellent, offering a rich variety of very beautiful scenery. The church of Kilmalie, the parish which includes Fort William, is on the opposite side of the Caledonian Canal. This parish is sixty miles in length by thirty in breadth, comprising seventy miles of sea-coast. The cemetery contains a monument erected to the memory of Colonel Cameron, of the 92nd regiment, who fell at Waterloo, bearing a spirit-stirring inscription from the pen of Sir Walter Scott. This is the country of the Camerons, a clan associated with romantic and glorious recollections. A few miles distant, on the western bank of Loch Lochy, is Auchnagary, the residence of Lochiel, the chief of the clan; and on the shore of Loch Eil, the road to Arisaig passes Fassafarn, the residence of his relation, Sir Ewen Cameron. Pennant has celebrated the heroism of Lochiel's ancestor, the great Sir Ewen, who emulating the unconquerable spirit of the "gallant and chivalrous Montrose," whom he proposed to himself as his model, was the last chieftain who capitulated with Monk, the commander of Cromwell's army, and afterwards faithful to the race of Stuarts, though not to the cause of liberty and constitutional monarchy, fought in his old age under their falling banner at Killikrankie. The interview of his descendant, Lochiel, with the Pretender, Charles Stuart, on board of the vessel which brought the young adventurer to the coast of Scotland, which instantly involved him in the calamities of the Rebellion, recalls the sacrifice of sound sense and strong conviction, to the resistless impulse of innate, but mistaken loyalty and chivalrous devotion. It was amongst such spirits that the commanding genius, Chatham, sought, and found, the hardy patriotism, which, like our native oak is the growth of centuries.

The name of Cameron is now no longer blended only with local and romantic exploits, or dubious renown, but has been

associated, by our proudest records and loftiest minstrelsy, with the most splendid triumphs of the nation. The bloody wreath won by the descendant of Lochiel at Waterloo, was bound by the hand of his sovereign, George the Fourth, around the hoary brows of his sire, who was created a baronet at the age of almost a hundred years, on account of his son's services.

GLEN FINNAN at the head of Loch Shiel, a long narrow arm of the sea, surrounded by high mountains, is the spot at which the Pretender raised his standard. A monument, in commemoration of the event, has been erected here by the late Mr. Macdonald, of Glenaladale. The road from hence passes through scenery variegated with broken and rugged rocks, copse, woods, and bare tracts of heather, interspersed with numerous small lochs, some of which are adorned with exquisitely beautiful islets, waving with graceful foliage, and then, winding through a wooded defile, skirts the bays and promontories of Loch Aylech, under bare and towering heights, amidst a rich profusion of oak, ash, and birch, shrouding the rugged outline of the coast, and dipping their branches into the sea.

On what accidents may depend the impression made on the mind of the traveller! Had the storm which befel Dr. Johnson, off this coast, compelled him to take shelter in one of its delicious natural harbours, he would have imagined himself transported to some enchanted land, and the descriptive powers of the author of *Rasselas* would have been taxed to portray the reverse of that picture which he has drawn, of the dreariness of this country.

The western coasts of Scotland, and the eastern shores of the Southern Hebrides, afford abundant proofs of their having been once much overgrown with oak; whilst the interior of the country was covered with fir. The bog-timber found on the coast is usually that of oak; whilst in the interior it is of fir: alder prevailing naturally along the water-courses. The destruction of the ancient forests is roundly attributed, by tradition, to the Danes, the formidable foes who, during so many centuries, harassed Scotland by perpetual descents; and doubtless, they, like the Romans in England, and other invaders, extirpated, as far as possible, the forests, inasmuch as they were the fastnesses of the natives. The winds accelerated the devastation which had thus commenced, especially the south-west, appropriately called, in Cornwall, the south-west *shears*; its destructive influence being attested by the direction in which the trunks of the trees in the bogs are generally found lying, from south-west to north-east: and the progress of population and of cultivation, has unfortunately consummated the ravages thus produced by hostile or physical aggression. The disturbed state of these regions, precluded the landed proprietors from adorning their estates, or enriching them with timber, which might, ere it reached its proper growth, fall beneath the axe of an invader: hence the almost total deficiency of those magnificent forests of oak, those "tall ancestral trees," which dignify the seats of our country gentlemen, and are protected by them, with hereditary veneration; and unfortunately, unaccustomed to regard trees as essential to the beauty or value of an estate, their descendants have hitherto little cherished those oaks which nature has reared in sheltered parts, where unmolested. The speedily accruing profit yielded by the bark of the oak, the tree being cut down for the purpose of stripping off its bark, at the age of twenty years inland, and of twenty-four years on the coast, the difference of exposure occasioning the variety in the comparative growth, offers immediate temptation to prevent its further progress. In some places in the west, the tenants retain, in virtue of a *servitude*, as it is technically called, the privilege of cutting down the wood, for the purpose of building their boats. The Iron Furnaces of Bunawe have devastated the wooded pass of Awe, and the neighbouring heights. So many conspiring causes have necessarily almost denuded Scotland of its oak. Of the ancient oak-forests, the remains yet growing are very scanty. Dr. Macculloch discovered two trunks of oak, in Glen Etive, the circumference of one of which was twenty-five feet, and the other, twenty; pollarded, but shooting forth fresh branches: and others on the bank of Loch Sunart, the age of which he calculated, at the least, at six centuries; one of them was twenty-five feet in girth. These were the only living proofs and remains of the ancient forests of oak, which he met with. To the oaks which have survived the age at which they might be cut down for bark, are maturing into valuable timber, and are already ornamental, the western coast owes much of its scenery. The timber has gradually

shared the benefit of the general security, which has encouraged the Highland lairds to protect it, both on account of its intrinsic worth, which some future war may prove, and its beauty: whilst some few, (for instance, Mr. Macneill of Colonsay,) have planted it to a considerable extent. Birch, which mingles its light foliage so gracefully with the loftier trees of the forest, is also sacrificed to its bark, and the more material value of its wood, in furnishing casks for the herring fishery: oak, though preferable for the latter purpose, being too expensive for common use. The fir-forests belong more properly to the internal and eastern parts of Scotland, and will be hereafter noticed.

At BORRODALE, on the beach, resides Mr. Macdonald. By the road-side is a niche enshrining the mutilated figures of the Virgin and Child, indicating the religion of the proprietor. His garden contains the cave in which the Pretender found his first and last asylum. The peculiar interest which belongs to this tale of modern romance, is that it has occurred within the recollection of our fathers. The lady may still be seen at her window in the Prince's-street of Edinburgh, in whose cap the Pretender placed a flower, when her nurse ran forth into the street, to intercede for the cessation of his martial music, lest it should disturb her mother who had but just given birth to this child. Most Scotsmen have conversed with veterans who were out in the Forty-five, and fought at Culloden; and the daughter of Flora Macdonald is yet living, and has returned, after several years of absence, to her native land. Many Highland names have been ennobled by the achievements of these rebellious campaigns. Trophies and relics, swords and snuff-boxes, are handed down to posterity, in proof of distinguished valour, and the favour of an exiled prince. The music and poetry of Scotland have been enlisted on the side of a young hero struggling to recover a throne. The designation of "Pretender," applied to Charles Edward, would be still held treason, if not sacrilege, in many a Highland home. I heard the title of Prince Charles bestowed on him by a popular minister in a wealthy town in the eastern part of Scotland, who, preaching on fidelity, animated his hearers by reference to well-known instances of faithfulness to him during his flight. Honour, generosity, heroism, loyalty, fidelity, all the elements of that chivalry, the decline of which aroused the indignant eloquence of Burke, are indissolubly attached to the glory and defeat of this extraordinary adventurer, though the character of the Pretender was unworthy of his cause, supposing it just, and the conduct of his followers exhibited an extravagant mixture of noble and degrading motives. The error of the Highlanders, in joining the Pretender, was chiefly of judgment. The unconstitutional proceedings of James the Second, which produced the Revolution, were unknown, or unintelligible, to this people, whilst the exiled family were associated in their minds with the heroism of Montrose and Dundee, and the new dynasty with the victory of Killikrankie and the massacre of Glencoe. The religion of the Stuarts presented additional claims to the conscientious support of the Catholic population, on whose shores Charles Edward descended.

There was at the heart's core of the Highlanders, notwithstanding the base alloy with which purer motives were corrupted, a principle of loyalty, so deeply seated in our breasts, that metaphysicians might find it difficult to determine whether it is derived from a traditional source, or is implanted by that Hand which, whilst forming our moral constitution, provided also for our social condition. The "Divine right of kings" is an exploded doctrine; but the sentiment, the feeling, the principle of attachment to the monarch, depends not upon abstract axioms of government, or accidental political creeds. It is found most powerful and influential where these are least understood: among the Celtic portion of our nation, the Welsh, the Highlanders of Scotland, and the Irish, and among the Scandinavian tribes, instructed in the simple rudiments of historical and religious lore.

Sympathy with suffering has been represented by Adam Smith, in his celebrated treatise, as proportioned to the station of the sufferer; and he illustrates his statement by reference to the extraordinary and apposite instance of the pity manifested to James the Second after his downfall, having almost occasioned a counter-revolution. The overthrow of the last Gustavus of Sweden was almost prevented by the refusal of his guards to oppose him, though the army had suffered the most dreadful privations and misery from his folly. The aim and intent of the French Revolutionary disturbers was to extirpate loyalty



to kings, as intimately blended with that allegiance to the King of kings, against which they waged implacable war: and they succeeded, in prosecution of this purpose, in subverting almost all the ancient dynasties of Europe; and their principles have been partially disseminated, and are still diffusing their poison in these islands. The Scottish Highlanders have been remarkably characterized by their instinctive regard to the Divine maxims, "Fear God and honour the King," though their loyalty has been perverted, and their religion debased by superstition; and the genius of Walter Scott, like that of Chatham, found in the rebellious spirit of the last century, that mainspring of loyalty which he touched with such magical effect, when, whilst the "clans of Culloden" mustered in our own day around the descendant of the Stuarts in dutiful and enthusiastic allegiance, he reminded their chiefs, individually, as they sat around his hospitable board, clad in their respective tartans, himself assuming in compliment to them, the garb of the Gael, of the train which the ancestor of each led to the standard of Charles I!

At ARISAIG there is a Ferry to Sky: a species of conveyance very different from that which the Southerners understand by such a mode of proceeding, and implying, in this instance, a transit of fifteen miles,—the delay in preparing the boat, which lies two miles distant from Arisaig,—the catching the boatmen, the clearing the coast, the management of intricate tides and conflicting winds, and the probability of a thorough ducking.

It was in the evening that I embarked; and we strove with breakers two hours before we fairly got to sea. The ominous heights of Rum portended mischief, and a few squalls deepened the gloom of the night, whilst the cries of the divers, like the voices of condemned spirits, mingled with the moanings of the blast. One of the boatmen beguiled the tediousness of the passage by recounting his adventures on those seas, especially off the outer coast of the Long Island, on which the whole weight of the Atlantic rolls with unbroken fury. The sea which sets into the Sound between Sky and the main land is often tremendous: but boats take refuge in the excellent harbours which indent the coast.

#### SKY; ARMADALE; BROADFORD; SLEAT; SACRAMENT; BAPTISMAL CONTROVERSY; ROADS.

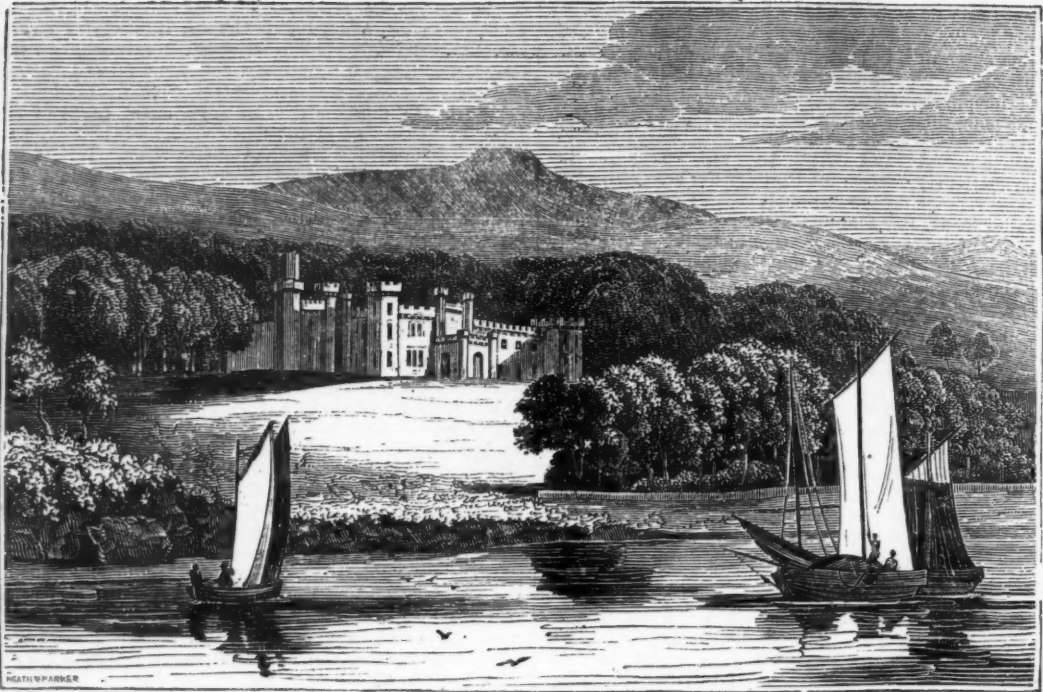
We reached Armadale at 10 o'clock. The absence of Lord Macdonald, the hospitable laird of this part of Sky, rendered a letter of introduction unavailing, though, doubtless, an application to his steward would have secured a prompt reception. It was necessary, therefore, to seek the Inn: a little girl trotted forward and soon led me to a row of fishing-huts, imbedded in a hollow scooped out of the hill-side, one of which proved to be the Inn, containing two extremely small apartments: one the kitchen, without windows, its wall completely cased in soot, and apparently, as far as the eye could penetrate the dense atmosphere of smoke, crowded with inmates, whilst large quantities of fish and meat occupied the small interval between their heads and the ceiling, from which these stores depended. The other apartment was clean, and furnished with a bed; but as this was occupied by a young *leddy*, it was necessary that a bedding should be spread for me upon the floor. On my demurring to this arrangement, the young *leddy* disappeared, and the apartment was appropriated to the stranger. But never was a first ray of light more welcome than that which entered the single pane with which the chamber was furnished. Had M. Simond, one of the most creditable of French travellers, slept at the inn of Armadale, he might have been warranted in indulging the following triumphant remark to which he is prompted by the exultation induced by the recollection of a *single* night passed in the Highlands, at a comfortable little inn forsooth. He observes, on the strength of this achievement, "The English are spoiled children: they gain nothing by the convenience with which they travel in their own country, but susceptibility of suffering when they quit it, however apathetical and incapable of feeling (*blasés*) they appear whilst they remain in it." The landlord and landlady of this hovel were respectable, and apparently above their low situation. The bad accommodation which travellers meet with, both in their passage to Sky and their arrival on the island, must be attributed partly to the preference usually given to the shorter transit at the upper part of the Sound, and partly to the hospitality of the laird of Armadale.

The castle, the residence of Lord Macdonald, is yet unfinished: its architecture is Gothic: it is erected on the shore amidst young plantations which even now adorn the island, and contrast beautifully with the bold and rugged coasts on the opposite shore of the Sound. Lord Macdonald is the representative of the ancient Lords of the Isles, and proprietor of two-thirds of the Isle of Sky, and of the whole of the island of North Uist. Whilst the central and more peopled parts of the kingdom are gradually drawing the landlords from their remote and less-frequented abodes, and the further parts of Scotland suffer materially the ill-effects of absenteeism, it is gratifying to perceive such an exception to the general practice exhibited by the lord of such extensive possessions. The branch of the clan Macdonald, of which Lord Macdonald is chief, boasts of producing one of Buonaparte's most celebrated marshals. And it was no less indicative of the tenacity of the attachment of the islanders to the stock from which they sprung, than creditable to the individual in the instance alluded to, that the marshal Macdonald, whose grandfather had fled to France in consequence of his participation in a rebellion, sought out, after the conclusion of the last war, his relatives in Uist, an island which few Scotchmen have visited, discovered them, and granted to them pensions. Lord Macdonald enjoyed the satisfaction of receiving his distinguished clansman at his castle.

The cemetery, which encloses the parish-church of SLEAT, contains some old monuments of the Macdonalds: chiefly flat stones, on which are represented various emblems of mortality: a coffin headed by a skull, a bell, spade, shovel, cross-bones, and an hour-glass. Within the church is a monument bearing a well-merited and panegyric inscription, erected to the memory of Sir James Macdonald, ancestor of the present lord, who died in his youth at Rome. The minister of the parish was employed in catechising some of his flock, preparatory to the celebration of the Sacrament, and the road was thronged with people hastening to the spot. The eastern coast of Sky is agreeably diversified by wood, other parts of the coasts of the island having been stripped of it, and also by cultivation. The little bay and castle of Knock form a picturesque scene; whilst opposite to Lornsay, Loch Nevis opens to the view, in all its expanse enclosed by rugged mountains. Beyond a dreary moor of some miles, towers a lofty peak, shaped like Vesuvius, called Ben na Callich, or the Old Woman's Mountain, a name frequently bestowed on mountains in Scotland, and usually, as in this instance, attributed to the circumstance of its elevated summit being the burial-place of a Norwegian Princess, selected by herself, that her dirge might be sung by the breezes which blew from her native land. At its base stretches the bay of Broadford, and on its shore the village, consisting of few houses and the mansion of Mr. Mackinnon of Corryatachan, the ancient hospitality of which has been celebrated by Pennant and Johnson; and its reputation has been well sustained by its present possessor, who was born in the house at the time of Dr. Johnson's visit\*.

On Sunday the Sacrament was celebrated at Sleat; the scene was singular, and highly interesting. Four tents were erected by the road-side, on a plot of ground surrounded by steep banks. About fifteen hundred persons were assembled on the occasion to witness, or partake of the ordinance; and as but a small portion of them could be accommodated under the coverings, the rest sat contented during several hours under heavy rain. About three hundred and fifty persons communicated. A service in the Gaelic language preceded, consisting of a prayer, a sermon, and hymns. The tables used on the occasion were formed of long planks, about two feet in breadth, resting on clouds of earth, and raised about a foot from the ground, and they were covered by a roller of white cloth. The guests, who lined them on both sides, severally restored a leaden token, which they had previously received, to the elder who applied for it. The ministers, taking their station at the head of the respective tables, then delivered an appropriate exhortation, and the bread and wine were passed from one person to another. The address at one of the tables was in English, and this was attended by the gentry; it was chiefly explanatory of the nature of the rite. The ministers of three out of the seven parishes of Sky assisted. Among the persons present was an old farmer, ninety-six years of age, who was quite blind; and an old veteran soldier, of the 92nd regiment, who had served during the whole of

\* The gentleman alluded to, Mr. Mackinnon, is since dead.



VIEW OF THE CASTLE OF ARMADALE, ISLE OF SKY.

the Peninsular war and at Waterloo, and is now reposing under his well-earned laurels: he had been remarkable for his prowess, and, on one occasion, near the Pyrenees, when a Highland officer, a Macdonald, who was rallying his troops, exclaimed, "Will no man follow me?" "Yes," replied this brave fellow, "the son of your father's herd will follow you."

The minister conducted us to the Manse, where refreshments were prepared for a large company, where many guests, including several military officers, were assembled. We then adjourned to the church, where the minister, who had officiated in English at the Sacrament, performed a service in the same language.

The Presbyterian church differs from the Episcopalian in its view of the sacramental rite. By the former it is never privately administered to persons disqualified by sickness, or other cause, from attending the public ordinance. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is considered as a public festival; it usually occupies four days; two previous to the celebration of the ordinance, one of which is observed as a fast, and another subsequent, a daily examination of the candidates and preaching taking place. It is held once or twice a year at the most in the western and more sequestered districts of Scotland, but more frequently in the eastern; and the attendance of persons from other parishes is discouraged by the ministers, as they consider it productive of irregularity. The reasons usually assigned for the infrequency of the Sacrament is, the great expense which the entertainment incidental to it occasions to the minister, and which he is ill able to afford, as well as the difficulty and inconvenience attending the congregation of people during the period prescribed. The exhortations delivered on the occasion differ widely, according to the various views entertained by ministers, in regard to the importance and real nature of the rite itself, and of the requisite qualifications for partaking of it. Whilst one party in the Church are charged with being too indiscriminate and lax, in their admission of persons to the ordinance; the ministers of the other are said to drive their parishioners from the table by their terrifying representations and rigorous requisitions. However opinions may differ on the merits of this controversy, the solemn prepa-

ration for the administration of the rite, the pristine simplicity of the mode of celebration, the impressive tone of the exhortations usually delivered by the clergy on the occasion, combined with an entire exemption from those fanatical excesses which too frequently characterize large and protracted assemblages of people for religious purposes, must be regarded as calculated to produce a deep and beneficial impression, both on those who partake of the rite, and of those who witness its celebration.

Sky had been the scene of a controversy, upon the subject of baptism; a minister of one of its parishes having been suspended by the presbytery, on the ground of his having refused the rite to some of the children of his parishioners. According to the practice of the Scottish church, parents are the only sponsors of their children, and the stricter part of the clergy require not only the knowledge of the elements of Christianity, but abstinence from gross vice, as a qualification for the privilege of presenting their children to the minister for baptism. The power of withholding it, is considered as a check upon the conduct of the parents; whilst the children are subsequently admitted to baptism, when capable of comprehending the nature of the rite, if not debarred from receiving it by misconduct. The sentence of the Presbytery, in the present instance, was confirmed by the Synod, and subsequently by the general assembly, but afterwards reversed by that body: the minister was reinstated.

The Isle of Sky is traversed by the Parliamentary roads which complete the communication with the chain of islands called the Long Island, and afford to its numerous cattle, as well as to those of Sky, the advantage of access to the markets of the south. The public expenditure being half the whole incurred in the formation of these roads is fully justified by the national as well as local benefits resulting. Individual proprietors would have been incapable of sustaining the cost, as toll-gates produce a surplus on only three of the Highland roads; a toll-bar in Sky would not pay the requisite expense. The projection of these roads does great credit to the late Mr. Charles Grant, long representative for the County of Inverness, and other Members of Parliament, who had visited Scotland and seen the need of them. The old military roads did not reach the Islands.

P. S. Q. R.

END OF THE FIFTH VOLUME.



